



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

OFS DEFENDS ITS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Atlanta, GA. July 23, 2003- OFS routinely evaluates optical fiber manufactured by others and has found that many optical fiber manufacturers are making and selling optical fiber using a technology that is fundamental to achieving low levels of polarization mode dispersion (PMD). This basic technology was patented by OFS. Use of such technology constitutes infringement of OFS' patents making it unlawful to make, use or sell optical fiber and/or cabled optical fiber using this technology in any country where OFS has been granted a patent.

In 2002, OFS filed lawsuits against Sterlite Optical Technologies, Inc based in India and FiberCore, Inc. with manufacturing facilities in Germany and Brazil for the infringement of these basic patents. Further, OFS has advised other optical fiber manufacturers, which OFS believes are illegally using OFS' patented technology, that OFS is committed to preventing unlicensed manufacturers from violating its patent rights. Similar to FiberCore and Sterlite, OFS will seek injunctions against those parties that continue to violate OFS' patent rights and hold them liable for damages associated with past infringement.

OFS has patented this technology in the United States and has been granted equivalent patent rights in numerous countries including China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and many European countries. Several manufactures in these countries have been drawing preforms that have been purchased from others and have found they still need to use OFS' technology to guarantee the low PMD performance required to meet today's "best in class" PMD requirements. The results of OFS' testing leads it to believe that preforms from all manufacturing processes (for example: VAD, OVD, MCVD, PCVD, or others) require the use of OFS' fundamental technology to achieve the lowest levels of PMD.

OFS recommends that optical fiber and optical fiber cable customers verify with their suppliers that products being sold do not infringe OFS' or anyone else's patents.

About OFS

OFS is a world-leading designer, manufacturer and provider of optical fiber, optical fiber cable, connectivity, FTTx and specialty photonics solutions. Our marketing, sales, manufacturing and research teams provide forward-looking, innovative products and solutions in areas including Telecommunications, Medicine, Industrial Automation, Sensing, Government, Aerospace and Defense applications. We provide reliable, cost effective optical solutions to enable our customers to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's digital and energy consumers and businesses.

OFS' corporate lineage dates back to 1876 and includes technology powerhouses such as AT&T and Lucent Technologies. Today, OFS is owned by Furukawa Electric, a multi-billion dollar global leader in optical communications.

For more information, please visit www.ofsoptics.com.

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